

Leadville, Colo April 16, 1915

Mr. Frank Bond

Chairman Executive Committee U.S. Geographic Board  
Washington D.C.

Dear sir:

I received a letter from the Secretary of the State Geographic Board on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst.

I am replying to the same today and will write you the substance or quote from it. This will clear everything to date, so far as I am concerned, and I can consistently drop out of the discussion leaving the final determination to the wisdom of the two Geographic Boards, which, it is a pleasure to note, are acting in harmony.

"I suggested the name of Mr. Gannett for the north peak of Mt. Massive for the reason that he was, as a pioneer explorer, the first to ascend it and put the name for it on the maps and for the further reason that his geological and topographic work was of great value to the state. The U.S. Geographic Board is of the opinion that "some prominent feature topographic feature" of this section of the state should be named for him. You, the State Board, have proposed Mt. Democrat (No. 2) as a suitable memorial monument.

I believe it would be a very appropriate one.

As you ask for suggestions however, I will propose for the consideration of the Boards the mountain at the head of the upper Arkansas canon with Mt. Lincoln as its neighbor to the east.

It is beyond doubt, symmetrically, the most beautiful mountain in the Rockys. It is the mountain adjoining Fremont Pass to the south. As usual, it has a number of local names, being generally referred to as Mt. Arkansas - saw - With a state, a river with two canons and a number of towns so named I see no reason why the most imposing and impressive mountain in the state should also be named Arkansas. It is possible that this may be the mountain you refer to as having under consideration also.

At present the snow on the lower reaches leaves it without composition or technical contrast but as soon as the north canon slopes are cleared I will photo it and send prints to the State and National Boards.

With Fremont Pass and Mounts Lincoln, Sherman and Sheridan on this range either mountain will be in historic company.

I hope the time will come when Mounts Broome, Bartlett, Fletcher, Buckskin and others on the range will be named for the great inventors or statesman famed in U. S. history (Thomas Jefferson and Wm H. Seward for instance)

and the range with the dual nomenclature of the "Park Range" and the "Mosquito Range" will be known as the Historic Range only.

I am not financially interested on Mt. Massive nor anywhere ~~as~~ nearer than 12 to 20 miles away.

In view of the local regard for the name, and the reason that the summit consists of four peaks, two of practically the same height and a serrated ridge to the north, I believe it would be well to name those jewels in the crown of the crest of the continent for those of our pioneer citizens who contributed most effectively to the up building of the state.

I have no further suggestions to make and will be satisfied with the fine conclusions of the State and National Boards.

I am respectfully and truly yours

R. E. Taft,

Leadville,

Colorado.